MUNDO OBRERO
WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!
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Now in fourth week, Starbucks strike keeps growing

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

Now in its fourth week, the strike at unionized Starbucks stores continues to grow and intensify. As of Dec. 6, Starbucks Workers United (SBWU) reported in an email to supporters: "Hundreds of union baristas from 26 new stores joined our national [Unfair Labor Practice (ULP)] strike this week. That brings us to 3,000 baristas at over 145 cities holding the picket line."

About 12,000 Starbucks workers are unionized. Their strike began on Nov. 13 with about 1,000 workers walking the picket line. The three main demands are for higher wages, guaranteed longer hours and the resolution of hundreds of ULP charges the union has filed in response to blatant union busting.

In New York City, cops arrested 12 strikers who were picketing with hundreds of supporters outside the Empire State Building. Meanwhile, under a court case settlement in New York City, the chain will pay a total of $35.5 million to over 15,000 Starbucks workers who were illegally denied stable schedules under the city's Fair Workweek law.

One militant tactic being used in several locations is the deployment of "flying pickets" who stand in front of trucks before a delivery is made to a store. If the driver is a member of the Teamsters union, they have a contractual right to refuse to cross a picket line. This successful tactic, which involves following the truck from one delivery to the next, has been a collaborative effort between SBWU and the Teamsters Joint Council in the areas where it has been tried.

SBWU asks supporters to "stand firm with us and don't buy Starbucks." ☐

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

Starbucks strikers outside downtown Cleveland store, Dec. 9, 2025.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Historic March for Mumia, Nov. 28-Dec. 9 on Day 7 in Reading, Pennsylvania, Dec. 4, 2025. Read online.

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQIA2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, class solidarity, and joining us in the fight for a socialist future, please sign up at **www.workers.org/join-form** and an organizer will get back to you. Or contact a WWP branch near you. ☐

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State of Michigan Retirement System drops all investments in Israel Bonds

The following news release was issued by Michigan Divest on Nov. 21, 2025.

After a year-long statewide divestment campaign led by Michigan residents, the Michigan Department of Treasury has dropped all State of Michigan Retirement System (SMRS) investments in Israel Bonds.

The SMRS is among the top performing retirement systems in the U.S., with $115 billion in assets in its investment portfolio, holding the pension funds of more than half a million current and former public employees. The SMRS portfolio directly funds multiple subcomponent retirement systems, including the Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System (MPSERS), the Michigan State Employees Retirement System (SERS), the Michigan Judges Retirement System (MJRS), the Michigan State Police Retirement System (MSPRS) and the Michigan Military Retirement Provision.

For over a year, Michigan Divest, a statewide coalition of Michigan residents, human rights activists and active and retired public employees, led a campaign to divest Israel Bonds from public pensions. Thousands of Michigan taxpayers, including current and former public employees with pensions in the SMRS, and over 50 endorsing organizations, including labor unions representing public school and state pensioners, expressed disapproval at taxpayer funds being invested in a $10 million Israel Bond purchased less than one month into the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

Since October 2024, Michigan residents and pension holders have packed the quarterly State of Michigan Investment Board meetings, expressing strong support for non-reinvestment in Israel Bonds. A petition administered by Michigan Divest (*tinyurl.com/MichDivestPetitionReport*) and delivered to the Michigan Treasury in October included over 2,200 signatures from Michigan residents and several resolutions calling for non-reinvestment passed by multiple public school employee unions and local county Democratic parties. Among the endorsing organizations is the Dearborn Federation of Teachers. Dearborn Public Schools is the second-largest participating employer in MPSERS.

Public records requests revealed that the SMRS declined to reinvest the $10 million Israel Bond upon its maturity on Nov. 1, 2025, and that it has withheld purchasing any additional Israel Bonds following the launch of Michigan Divest's campaign in fall 2024.

The State of Michigan Retirement System is free of Israel Bonds for the first time in 30 years.

The Michigan Treasury confirmed, in response to a public records request for all Israel Bonds and pending Israel Bonds: "The SMRS does not currently hold nor are there any trades placed for the types of bonds described in the request." Internal Treasury correspondence obtained via public records request confirms this, and also reveals how the Israel Bond National Managing Director of Corporate & Institutional Sales personally called the SMRS' Chief Investment Officer in an unsuccessful attempt to persuade SMRS to continue its three-decade investment relationship.

Michigan's SMRS is now the first state retirement system in the U.S. to drop all investment in Israel Bonds.

The Michigan Department of Treasury's decision to decline pension reinvestment in Israel Bonds occurs amidst a growing nationwide trend. State and local governments are increasingly dropping investments in Israel Bonds in response to public opposition to Israel's genocide and significant credit downgrades. Major Wall Street credit agencies, including Moody's, Fitch and S&P, downgraded Israel's credit rating in 2024 with continued negative projected outlook as Israel's regional geopolitical instability raises elevated concern for fiduciaries.

In a statement, Michigan Divest said: "Michigan came together for Palestine. We commend the Michigan Treasury for dropping Israel Bonds and will continue to monitor the SMRS investment portfolio to ensure that Michigan public employees, retirees and teachers' retirements are never invested in Israel Bonds. We will continue to organize in pursuit of divestment of Michigan taxpayer funds in Israel's ongoing genocide, occupation and apartheid."

Go to *tinyurl.com/MichDivestFOIA* to access public record documents obtained through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request made to the Michigan Department of Treasury. ☐

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Trump's all-out war on African peoples, at home and abroad

When it comes to Donald Trump's white supremacist rants against people of African descent, there are no borders. In early November, he threatened to militarily invade Nigeria, the most populous country on the African continent, for "anti-Christian" violence. The Nigerian government vehemently rejected this claim, characterizing it as baseless.

This was followed in late November with Trump having the unmitigated gall to disinvite leaders of the South African government to the 2026 G20 conference slated to be held in the U.S. The reason? Trump claims that the Black-led government discriminates against white South Africans. It has been a mere 30 years since the heroic mass struggle coupled with armed resistance dismantled the legalized apartheid system after more than two centuries of white supremacist rule.

This year's G20 conference was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The G20 brings together representatives of 19 of the world's largest national economies, plus the European Union and the African Union. South Africa has the most advanced economy in Africa, but has not eliminated capitalist inequality for the Black masses there. South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa hosted this year's conference.

Upon hearing that Trump called for banning his country's attendance at the 2026 conference, Ramaphosa commented: "South Africa is a sovereign, constitutional, democratic country and does not appreciate insults from another country about its worth in participating in global platforms. South Africa will continue to participate as a full, active and constructive member of the G20." (New York Times, Nov. 26)

In early August, Trump imposed a 30% tariff on goods exported from South Africa, along with drastically cutting foreign aid, most notably in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention.

Rally in Minneapolis / St. Paul, Minnesota, against ICE, Dec. 3, 2025.

The South African government was the first country to bring war crimes accusations before the International Criminal Court at The Hague, Netherlands, in early 2024 against the Israeli regime for its racist genocide committed against the Palestinian population in Gaza. This act unleashed a firestorm of criticism against South Africa, first by the Joe Biden administration and now by the Trump administration, which continues to arm the Zionist regime's ongoing genocide.

And in early December, Trump extended his racist diatribe against other people of African descent when he referred to the Somali community in Minneapolis as "garbage." Trump has ordered Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) masked thugs to descend upon the largest Somali migrant population in the U.S. in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, with harassment, arrests and deportations. Political solidarity for the Somali people, a majority Muslims, is rapidly growing in other communities, as it has in other cities, against any ICE invasion.

It is no accident that Trump is targeting Somalis, Nigerians and Black South Africans, as well as Haitians, Venezuelans and Central and South Americans, as part of his war against migrants, especially migrants of color. Coming from an immigrant family himself, Trump has stated on more than one occasion that his goal is to restore a once dominant white population inside the U.S., as more and more Black and Brown people were forced to leave their homelands to survive and migrate to the U.S. in search of a better life.

This is why Trump has offered several thousand white South Africans incentives to move to the U.S., not because they are persecuted by a Black government. Trump is not against all immigration to the U.S. but wants to pick and choose who is allowed to migrate.

Trump's war on migrants is in reality a war to weaken the entire multinational working class's ability to fight at full strength in its class interests to liberate itself from all forms of capitalist inequality. This is why it is imperative to build class unity, starting with the most oppressed, to challenge the class enemy — the billionaire ruling class — to win workers' power. ❐

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Seminario:

Cuba y China refuerzan validez del socialismo como modelo de desarrollo para ambos pueblos

Autor: *Redacción Internacional*
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中古两党第七届理论研讨会
El Séptimo Seminario Teórico entre el PCC y el PCCh
用科学发展规划推动
社会主义现代化建设的实践和经验
Las prácticas y experiencias de promover la modernización socialista
mediante la planificación científica de desarrollo

Este tipo de intercambio deviene mecanismo para fortalecer la cooperación bilateral Cuba-China. FOTO: PRENSA LATINA

En China se llevó a cabo ayer el VII Seminario Teórico entre los Partidos Comunistas de Cuba (PCC) y de ese país asiático (PCCh), encaminado a abordar prácticas y experiencias para promover la modernización socialista mediante la planificación científica del desarrollo.

De acuerdo con Prensa Latina, Gladys Martínez Verdecia, miembro del Buró Político y primera secretaria del Comité Provincial en Artemisa, destacó el rol de estos intercambios como mecanismo para fortalecer la cooperación bilateral.

Además, señaló que permiten ahondar, desde un enfoque marxista, los desafíos actuales del socialismo y proponer soluciones concretas, a la par que recordó que la comunidad de futuro compartido entre China y Cuba es la primera establecida por Beijing con un país de América Latina.

Esa alianza, aseveró, refuerza la validez del socialismo como modelo de desarrollo para ambos pueblos.

Por otra parte, la dirigente hizo énfasis en los logros del vínculo entre Artemisa y la provincia china de Hunan, los cuales son evidencia palpable de la importancia estratégica de los lazos entre ambos partidos comunistas.

Asimismo, el espacio fue oportuno para denunciar el recrudecimiento del bloqueo económico del Gobierno de Estados Unidos contra la Isla y su inclusión en la espuria lista de países que supuestamente patrocinan el terrorismo. En este sentido, agradeció la denuncia constante de Beijing a la presión de Washington sobre Cuba, así como el apoyo del Gobierno y pueblo chinos en sectores claves como el agroalimentario, energético y la ciberseguridad.

Ambos partidos, subrayó, constituyen un ejemplo de solidaridad y cooperación en la construcción del socialismo.

Por su lado, Li Shulei, miembro del Buró Político y jefe del Departamento de Propaganda del Comité Central del PCCh, enfatizó en la relevancia de fortalecer la comunicación y los intercambios para promover relaciones cooperativas bilaterales, y en la necesidad de elaborar planes de mediano y largo plazo orientados a las estrategias de desarrollo socioeconómico.

Al respecto, explicó la experiencia de China en la elaboración de los planes quinquenales, los cuales, dijo, tienen una amplia base de planificación científica del desarrollo.

En el seminario, al que asiste una delegación partidista cubana presidida por Martínez Verdecia, se desarrollaron tres paneles, en los cuales se hizo referencia a los principales retos de cara al trabajo ideológico, el trabajo económico y el trabajo anticorrupción.

La delegación inició su recorrido en Hunan, pues la colaboración entre esa provincia y Artemisa se perfila como referente positivo para los vínculos locales entre Cuba y China, con resultados concretos en agricultura, comercio y desarrollo económico. ☐

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